ALBERTA PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

Alberta
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

89/90 ANNUAL REPORT

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Alberta

PUBLIC WORKS,
SUPPLY AND SERVICES

Minister responsible for
LOTTERIES, MAJOR EXHIBITIONS AND FAIRS
PUBLIC AFFAIRS BUREAU
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

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The Honourable Dr. David Carter
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta
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Sir:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of Alberta Public Safety Services for the year ending March 31, 1990.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Kowalski
MINISTER
Alberta Public Safety Services

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REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Public Safety Services is the Alberta Government agency responsible for promoting public safety in the province. The agency manages two specific programs: the Emergency Planning and Response Program and the Dangerous Goods Control Program.

These programs ensure that individuals, municipalities, industry and the Government itself are prepared, trained and ready to deal with emergencies and disasters when they occur. The programs also ensure that millions of tonnes of dangerous goods move as safely as possible on roads and highways in the province.

Public Safety Services networks with the many government programs that impact on public safety to ensure that they are coordinated and have a positive effect on our daily lives.

The reporting period of 1989/90 was a very active one. Government, the media and the general public focused much attention on the issue of chemical spills. While concern about releases of dangerous goods has always been keen, the spill of sodium dichromate, a water treatment chemical, on Highway 831 north of Lamont heightened awareness about the complex arrangements required to protect public safety and the environment.

This incident dramatically highlighted the need for close cooperation among local authorities, public health and medical officials, clean-up organizations, the media, emergency services and enforcement organizations, safety personnel and industry.

The high profile of the "831 Spill", as it is now known, lead to a number of very positive benefits. It increased the reporting rate for all releases in the province, thus allowing for faster response. The need for strong, cooperative response action improved inter-agency working arrangements.

With the assistance of all interested organizations, Alberta Public Safety Services has written a Government Support Plan for Chemical Spills which explains how the resources of the provincial government will be used to help municipalities respond to these situations. The Plan is in the final testing stages and should be approved in 1990. New training courses were developed to teach response personnel how to coordinate the large number of organizations that are needed at a spill site, and how the vital public information function should be handled.

As has been the case for the past several years, 1989 brought two extreme weather events that caused extensive damage and required recovery assistance programs to help people and municipalities restore property. In August extraordinary rains affected large areas of west central Alberta and caused considerable damage. The northwestern area of the province was struck by such heavy rains that in some areas, rainfall exceeded every record. The rains continued until October, preventing harvest and causing serious damage to fields. It is expected that the Province will provide over $27.5 million in recovery assistance payments.

A report prepared by Environment Canada confirmed that there has been an unusually high number of extreme weather events in Alberta in the last half of the 1980s, mostly concentrated in the central and west central areas of the province, although there is not yet

sufficient data to prove the existence of a trend towards more severe weather. Before the Government approves a disaster assistance program, extensive research is conducted to determine if the event is truly "extraordinary" and whether widespread damage has occurred. Flooding, rain and windstorms that historically occur only every fifty years, at the least, are generally considered to be "extraordinary" events and at this level of severity, generally cause extensive damage which requires some sort of assistance to repair.

The Agency has been very active during the past year in several other key areas. Planning is quite advanced to provide support to the province of British Columbia should a catastrophic earthquake occur on the west coast. Studies are underway on the feasibility of extending 911 emergency telephone service to all areas of the province that do not have it. A pilot project is being developed for the Edmonton region to demonstrate an enhanced public warning system using new technologies available in the electronic news media. The Alberta Major Industrial Accident Coordinating Committee (MIACC) has begun a number of initiatives to ensure a high level of safety from large scale industrial accidents.

Our new magazine, *Insight*, has been very well received and we hope it will improve awareness about important issues in the general safety field. More than 7000 copies are sent out four times a year. Finally, we are actively planning for a Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Emergency Preparedness in Canada, which is to be held in Barrhead on September 20, 1990. Following a very successful meeting in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island in June 1989, we hope that these meetings will be held regularly to raise the profile of issues facing the public safety community. These and other matters are explained in more detail in the body of this Report.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our small staff at Public Safety Services, who work enthusiastically to promote public safety in Alberta. Their contributions, together with those of the other government departments with whom we work closely, the many volunteers involved in our programs and our colleagues in the municipalities and in industry have resulted in significant advances for all Albertans.

DISASTER SERVICES DIVISION

General Responsibilities

The Disaster Services Division is responsible for providing emergency preparedness planning, training and advisory services for provincial and local government, and for administering the Government of Alberta's special assistance programs following emergencies and disasters.

The Division coordinates municipal, provincial and industrial emergency planning, and, in conjunction with Alberta Family and Social Services and Alberta Health, coordinates emergency social services planning for government institutions and municipalities.

The Division actively participates in emergency situations that develop beyond the capacity of a single authority, and maintains the Alberta Government Emergency Operations Centre for use in such situations.

The Division is responsible for selecting candidates from municipalities to attend courses at the APSS Training School, as well as APSS workshops and seminars.

The Disaster Services Division consists of five Branches: Plans and Operations, Disaster Health Services, Disaster Social Services, Disaster Field Services and Disaster Assistance.

Plans and Operations Branch

The Plans and Operations Branch is responsible for the development of operational concepts, policies, plans, procedures and exercises for government departments, industry and municipalities, and for the development and maintenance of government plans to respond to emergencies and disasters.

Among the emergency plans currently in place or under development are: Alberta Survival Plan, Government of Alberta Emergency Operations Plan, Emergency Response Plan for a Sour Gas Release, Dangerous Goods Emergency Support Plan, Support Plan for a Catastrophic Earthquake, Emergency Response Plan for Dam Breach and Support Plan for Search and Rescue Operations. The Branch holds all municipal and industrial emergency plans for the province in the Government Emergency Operations Centre (see Appendix 5 on page 32).

The Branch also provides professional resources to industry, municipal, provincial and federal governments in the field of emergency preparedness and response to emergencies and disasters.

For the first time in several years, there were no major emergencies in 89/90 that required the activation of the Government Emergency Operations Centre. Flooding was experienced in the Seba Beach, Whitecourt and Paddle River areas and APSS supplied sandbags for dyking purposes. The Branch coordinated the dispatch of Critical Incident Stress Teams to Manitoba in response to the serious forest fires experienced in that province.

Three major projects were initiated in this fiscal year.

APSS sponsored a workshop to address the need for an Emergency Warning System to

warn the public of emergencies or disasters. A pilot project for the Edmonton region was approved and is scheduled for completion in 1992. If viable, the system may then be extended province wide.

The chemical spill on Highway 831 prompted the initial drafting of a Government of Alberta Support Plan for Dangerous Goods Incidents. The plan will coordinate the provincial emergency response in support of municipal operations during dangerous goods incidents which are beyond the response capabilities of a municipality.

In the event of a catastrophic earthquake in British Columbia, Alberta, as the adjacent province, would play a lead role in the staging and dispatch of resources if assistance is requested by British Columbia. APSS and Emergency Preparedness Canada agreed to develop a joint plan for an effective, coordinated Alberta Support System. A workshop attended by municipal, provincial and federal government representatives and non-government agencies was held, a concept agreed to, and planning initiated.

Other major planning functions included a 911 needs study which showed the overwhelming support of Alberta residents, key organizations and emergency service providers for a province-wide 911 system. A feasibility, implementation and cost study was approved and should be completed in early 1991.

The Support Plan for Search and Rescue Operations was completed, exercised and implemented during a search for a lost hunter.

The Line Load Control Program for the province neared completion with the gathering of key municipal and provincial telephone numbers. A generic School Emergency Planning Guideline was developed which will be distributed to school districts. A seminar and exercise was held for 32 provincial government Emergency Planning Officers.

An agreement was signed with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to extend the Disaster Services program to all Indian bands in the province.

Other initiatives with the federal government included further negotiations for a Memorandum of Understanding on emergencies and development of a Critical Plant Pest Infestation Plan. National Emergency Arrangements continued with various federal government departments in the areas of food, housing and accommodation, energy, public information and construction and engineering.

A list of significant emergencies that occurred in 89/90 can be found in Appendix 4 on page 29 of this report.

Disaster Health Services

Disaster Health Services helps health care facilities develop and exercise Mass Casualty Response and Evacuation Plans.

Mock disaster exercises were held in 26 communities to test the effectiveness of Mass Casualty Response Plans and Evacuation Plans (Appendix 7 on page 34).

Three additional mock exercises were conducted in the Town of Gleichen, the City of Edmonton and at the Edmonton International Airport.

Another major program focus of the Health Services Branch is the delivery of disaster preparedness workshops, lectures and seminars for nurses throughout the province.

During the reporting period, 1,622 persons participated in Health Services training programs (Appendix 6 on page 33).

Information films were shown in 36 locations, 8,090 pamphlets and brochures were distributed and 4,527 Emergency Passes were issued to health care facilities.

Staff attended the National Conference on Disaster Management in Hamilton, Ontario; the Emergency Preparedness Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia; and the Alberta Hospital Association Convention in Edmonton. The Branch also participated in the Advanced Critical Incident Stress Conference conducted in Edmonton.

Thirty-six candidates were nominated by the Branch to attend courses conducted at the federal government's Emergency Preparedness College in Arnprior, Ontario.

Disaster Health Services manages a $6 million Emergency Medical Stockpile. Inspections of the Emergency Medical Stockpile locations were carried out and equipment was loaned to various organizations, including the Edmonton Folk Music Festival; Stony Plain and Brooks Summer Games; Alberta Triathlon Club and Camrose Winter Games.

Disaster Social Services

The Disaster Social Services Branch is responsible for developing emergency social services plans and procedures to ensure that municipalities and government departments respond efficiently to emergencies. The Branch provides planning expertise to many organizations and agencies, particularly Alberta Family and Social Services and Community Health and Mental Health Services. Guidance is also made available to volunteer and service organizations that provide resources in the event of a disaster.

The Branch provides extensive training to disaster and emergency response personnel. Two-day seminars take place at the APSS Training School. Extension training seminars and in-service/worksite orientations are also offered.

The subject of disaster social services delivery is taught in three central courses. This year, some 75 people representing municipalities, Alberta Family and Social Services, Community Health as well as Social Services personnel from Edmonton enrolled in these courses.

Day-long extension training seminars were given for Emergency Social Services designates in Lethbridge and Fort McMurray. Worksite orientations were conducted for Alberta Family and Social Services personnel in Lethbridge, Fort McMurray, Leduc and Edson.

A one-day seminar on disaster social services delivery systems for social services personnel was given in Edmonton and Calgary. A seminar on the subject of outreach support was provided for staff of the Lethbridge Health Unit, and a seminar addressing the role of the Health Unit was provided at the APSS

Training School.

The Branch has been functioning as a provincial coordinator to set up Critical Incident Stress Debriefings for emergency services personnel. Critical Incident Stress occurs when emergency response personnel are profoundly and traumatically impacted by their involvement in an emergency event.

A total of 42 Critical Incident Stress Debriefings were provided to Emergency Services response crews. These were carried out by CISD trained Alberta Mental Health personnel, supported by CISD trained ambulance, fire and police personnel.

The Branch conducts CISD awareness seminars across the province for ambulance, fire and police services. In-service seminars on Critical Incident Stress were delivered to emergency services personnel in 26 rural Alberta communities. Four seminars were provided at the Edmonton Fire Department's Training School as part of recruitment training and officer training programs.

In February, an Advanced Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Training Workshop was held with over 290 ambulance and police personnel from every province and several US midwest states in attendance. The Branch organized this two-day event, at which two of the most eminent authorities on the subject, Dr. Jeffrey Mitchell and Dr. George Everly, shared their extensive experiences.

Workshops and seminars dealing with Critical Incident Stress were conducted for organizations representing the petroleum and chemical industry as well as for organizations and associations representing ambulance, fire and police services. A one-day seminar on disaster stress was delivered to counseling personnel of the Salvation Army.

Provincial officials from Manitoba invited the Disaster Social Services Branch to coordinate the delivery of stress debriefings and training to emergency services personnel in Manitoba. The Branch dispatched five CISD-trained teams made up of eight therapists from Alberta Health and two members of the APSS staff.

The initial response was followed up with additional training and support to Manitoba's Human Services personnel.

Meetings were held with representatives from rural and urban fire departments and ambulance companies to address the issue of mutual support in the provision of Critical Incident Stress Debriefings. Representatives from Alberta Mental Health were on hand for many of these discussions. The Branch also held meetings with municipal officials and representatives of Alberta Family and Social Services regarding mutual involvement in disasters.

The Disaster Social Services Branch oversees the distribution of emergency preparedness equipment. Reception Centre Kits are now in place in all but three Alberta Family and Social Services District Offices. They have been provided for the Social Services Department of the City of Calgary and the Red Cross in Edmonton.

Mobile Feeding Units have been completely refurbished, sanitized, and repacked into 13 wood cartons with all equipment now securely crated.

A total of 18,355 blankets have been distributed to smaller communities less likely to keep a supply on hand for motorists who are stranded during a blizzard.

During the reporting period, the Branch

carried out a Disaster Social Services exercise as part of the municipal exercise for Leduc planning and response officials.

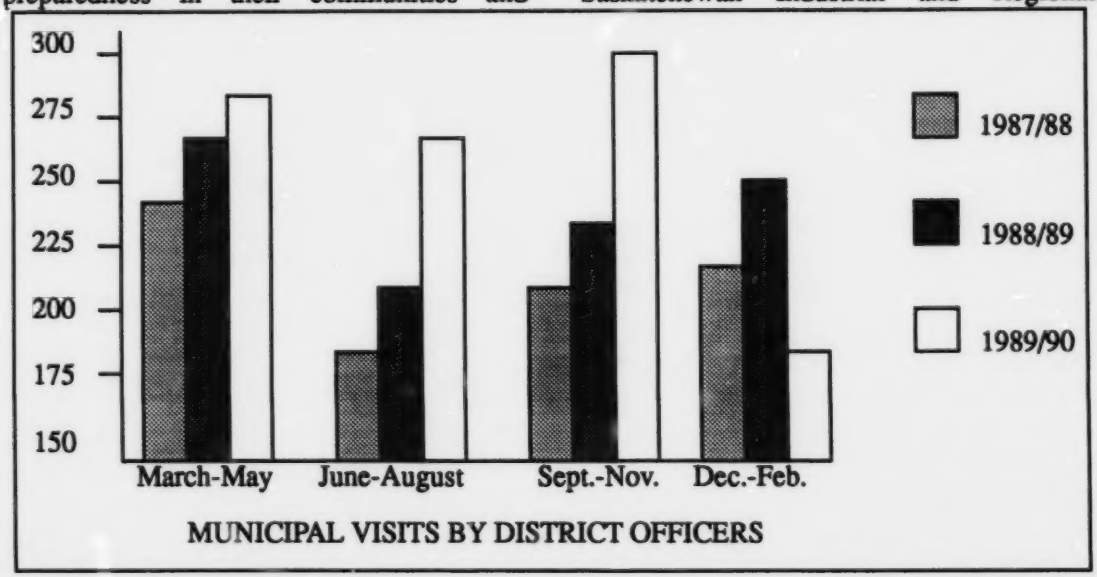
Disaster Field Services Branch

The Disaster Field Services Branch is responsible for the delivery of Alberta Public Safety Services programs to municipalities, industry and other agencies throughout the province. The Branch administers the programs regionally through district offices in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, St. Paul, Camrose, Red Deer, Calgary and Lethbridge.

District Officers completed 1,059 visits to municipalities to assist local authorities in the development and coordination of emergency preparedness activities. Each of the 328 municipal emergency response plans was reviewed, hazard analyses updated and the plans amended as required. Emergency preparedness surveys for municipalities were completed in cooperation with Municipal Directors of Disaster Services. These surveys provide local officials with detailed information on the status of emergency preparedness in their communities and include recommendations for enhancing emergency response capabilities.

District staff participated in 44 planning meetings to coordinate community response to a mass casualty incident, and assisted in the conduct of 22 mass casualty community exercises designed to train municipal emergency response staff and evaluate the effectiveness of the community's emergency response plan. In addition, 43 emergency response plan simulations were conducted to train municipal officials and emergency response personnel. Following the exercises, municipal emergency response plans were reviewed and revised as required.

Emergency preparedness in the industrial and petrochemical sectors was emphasized. Branch staff assisted in the integration of municipal and industrial plans, and worked in conjunction with the Canadian Chemical Producers Association, Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER), Strathcona District Mutual Aid Plan, Edmonton Area Pipeline and Utility Operators Committee and Fort Saskatchewan Industrial and Regional



MUNICIPAL VISITS BY DISTRICT OFFICERS

Mutual Aid Organization.

District Officers assisted in a major disaster assistance registration program for the northwestern Alberta region in the spring of 1990 for farmers who suffered losses and field damage due to excessive rainfall in the fall of 1989.

All radiation monitoring equipment has been recovered from municipalities, overhauled and replaced in central storage in each of the seven Alberta Public Safety Services districts. This equipment will be serviced annually and remain in central storage until it is required.

Rescue kits were issued to 21 municipalities whose disaster services organizations have shown notable progress in improving their rescue service. The rescue kit, valued at $4000, contains a portable generator and lighting system to illuminate the scene of rescue operations, a high pressure airbag rescue set, a come-along, a hydraulic jack, chains, ropes, stretchers and blankets.

This year rescue kits were issued to the villages of Linden, Cayley, New Sarepta, Lougheed, Delia, Rycroft, Czar, Glendon, Plamondon, Clive, Rumsey, Entwistle, Rockyford, Halkirk; Improvement Districts #21 (Worsley), #16 (DeBolt); Counties of Athabasca #12 (Colinton), Barrhead #11, Parkland #31 (Tomahawk) and the Towns of Coaldale and Gleichen.

A five-year Regional Response Improvement Program, administered by Disaster Field Services, was announced this year. This program is designed to assist municipalities with cost shared funding for projects which will improve their emergency response capability on a regional basis. In this first full year of the program, 23 projects costing $887,550 were approved, with the provincial government contributing $200,000, the federal government $342,400 and municipalities the balance.

Disaster Assistance

The Alberta Disaster Assistance Program, administered by the Disaster Assistance Branch, responds to restoration expenditures resulting from extraordinary emergency operations, and to other financial burdens of loss and damage caused by a disastrous event.

The 1987 Disaster Assistance Program for the City of Edmonton tornado and the accompanying severe weather in the northern half of the province continued throughout the past year. Some 1,519 applications were received of which 1,040 were eligible for assistance, including 212 business applications. Although this program is nearly completed, 109 business applications continue to be monitored under the Industrial Recovery Assistance Program (IRAP) and will not be finalized until at least 1991.

Payment programs were completed for the following Disaster Assistance Programs:

North Central Alberta Flooding
June 18-23, 1986

Severe Weather, County of Minburn #27
September 2, 1987

Severe Weather, Central Alberta
June 4-11, 1988

Severe Weather, County of Flagstaff #29, Municipal Districts of Taber #14 and Wainwright #61
June 28-29, 1988

Calgary Flooding
August 16, 1988

The 1988 Disaster Assistance Program approved for the Slave Lake, Kinuso, Driftpile and Improvement District #17 (East) area as a result of heavy flooding during July and August 1988 continued throughout the past year. Some 809 applications were received, of which 646 were eligible for assistance, including 43 business applications. This program is virtually complete, save for a number of business and local authority applications for clean-up of water courses.

Disaster Assistance Guidelines, which replace the previously used Policy Statement, received Ministerial Approval on June 21, 1989, and have been in effect since that date.

Many of the applications for disaster assistance which do not fall within approved programs are dealt with as isolated cases. As a general guideline, these applications are not eligible for assistance unless the loss and damage was so devastating that the individual, business or farm is unable to survive financially as a direct result of a disastrous event.

All applications are carefully investigated by the appropriate government departments to verify the circumstances and are then reviewed by a Disaster Assistance Committee to determine eligibility for assistance.

There were a number of isolated case applications in the first half of the year for assistance towards wind and flood damage and for livestock mortality. Throughout the fiscal period, 76 such applications were received from across the province and 9 received assistance grants.

August 1989 was particularly busy. Heavy rains caused flood damage in the Towns of Whitecourt and Mayerthorpe in Improvement Districts #14 and #15 and in the Counties of Lac Ste. Anne #28 and Barrhead #11. A Disaster Assistance Program was approved for those areas. As of March 31, 1990, a total of 495 applications for assistance were received, of which 194 have received assistance grants.

From August to October 1989, very heavy rains caused considerable loss and damage to crops and fields in northwestern Alberta. A Disaster Assistance Program was announced by the Premier on February 15, 1990 and 2,976 applications were received, with 336 receiving advance payments by March 31, 1990. This program covers the County of Grande Prairie #1, the Municipal Districts of Fairview #136, Peace River #133, Smoky River #130 and Spirit River #133 as well as Improvement Districts #19 and #20 and parts of Improvement Districts #16, #17, #19, #20, #21 and #22. Many applicants suffered damages to crops and fields caused by machinery.

Some of these programs, involving major and widespread loss and damage, will be eligible for cost sharing under the federal government Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA). Cost sharing is based on provincial population figures, and when approved, the province will be responsible for the first $1 per capita; the next $2 will be shared 50%; the following $2 will be shared 25% by the province, 75% by the federal government; and the federal government will be responsible for 90% of the remainder.

TRAINING DIVISION

Training Division operates a central Training School and is responsible for developing, organizing and delivering Alberta Public Safety Services training courses.

There are two operational branches within the Division: Training Delivery and Research and Development. A Clerical Support Group supports both branches.

Courses delivered by the School relate to emergency management, emergency response, and the transportation of dangerous goods. While most of the courses are delivered at the School, some are delivered throughout Alberta on an extension basis. The School's training programs are taught by Training Delivery Officers who also assist in the development of new programs and modification of existing ones.

During the year, the Emergency Site Management and the Emergency Public Information Officer courses were conducted concurrently, to the betterment of both. Improvements were also made to the following courses and seminars: Municipal Official's Program Management, Dangerous Goods Awareness, and Dangerous Goods (Incident) Response.

A major review of rescue-training requirements in Alberta was completed. Many of the recommendations will be incorporated into major revisions to the School's Basic Rescue and Rescue Leader's courses. Changes which have already been incorporated into the Rescue courses include a demonstration by a team of search dogs and a simulated disaster exercise. Outdated topic areas were discarded from the program.

The School conducts a number of custom designed courses. A special Rescue Course was designed for and delivered to students of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology Paramedic Program. Another Rescue Course was delivered to volunteers of the Edmonton Police Department. A customized Dangerous Goods Response Seminar was delivered for the Occupational Health and Safety Certificate Program of the University of Alberta, Faculty of Extension.

A Plans and Operations (Peace) course was conducted jointly with Emergency Preparedness Canada (EPC). The course was held in Edmonton and attended by participants from the four western provinces and the territories, with instructors from Alberta, Saskatchewan and EPC.

A special three-month "Second Responders to Dangerous Goods Incidents" course was conducted in conjunction with the Edmonton Fire Department. One fire fighter from the County of Red Deer attended at his own expense.

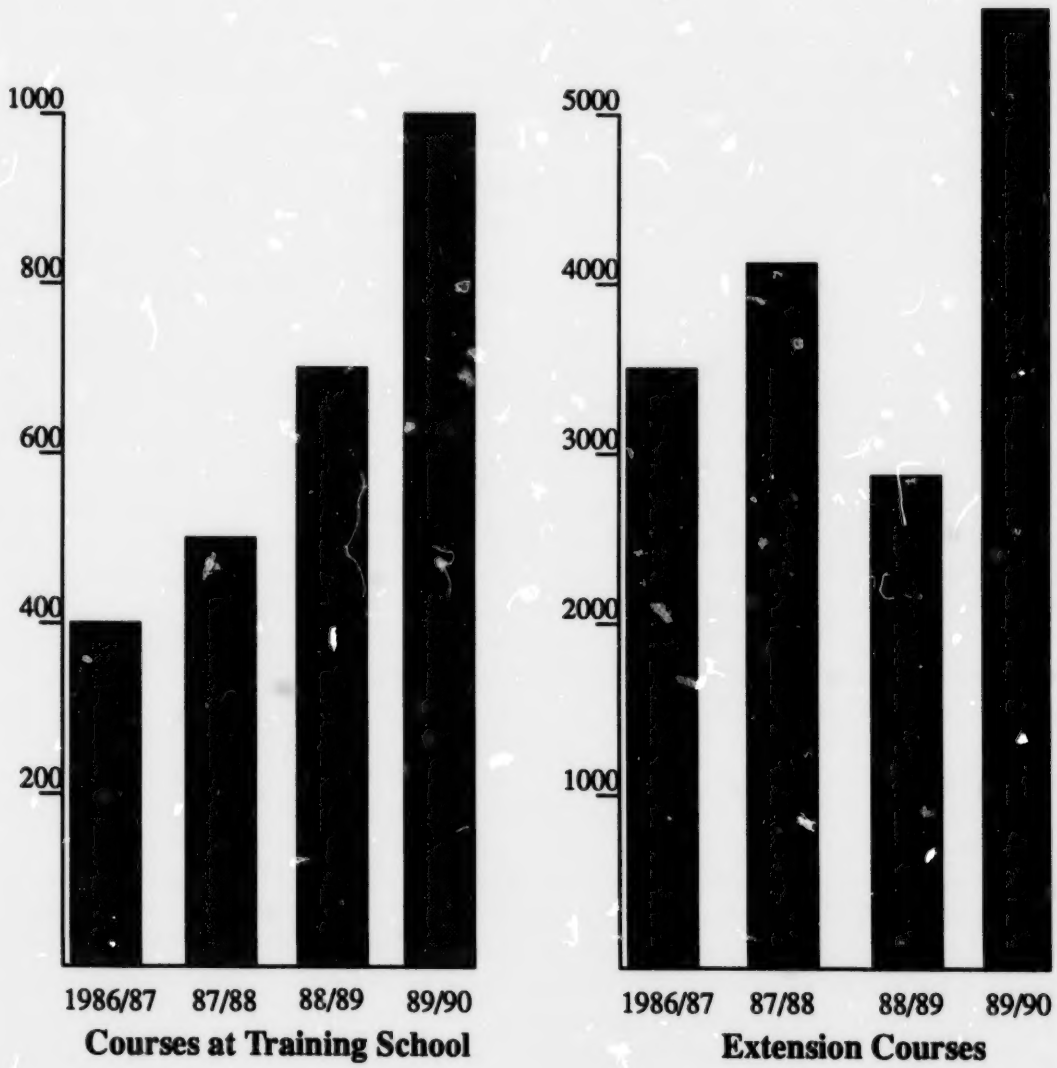
A number of other Dangerous Goods Regulatory training courses were conducted for On-Highway Inspectors, Dangerous Goods Inspectors, and Alberta Government Shippers and Carriers.

Training Division was instrumental in developing a number of instructional videos. These included: "*The Five Stages of Rescue*", "*The Transportation of Dangerous Goods*" and "*Containment of Dangerous Goods Spills*". Special thanks to the RCMP's K Division and the Edmonton Fire Department for their assistance with the production of these videos.

The Division administered the attendance of 153 Albertans on courses held at the Canadian Emergency Preparedness College in Arnprior, Ontario. These courses covered Emergency Management, Health and Welfare, and Social Services.

Training Division is looking forward to an active year of continued program revision, development and delivery.

Course Attendance



DANGEROUS GOODS CONTROL DIVISION

General Responsibilities

The Dangerous Goods Control Division is responsible for administering the provincial Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Act. This Act regulates the handling, offering for transport and the actual transportation of dangerous goods on Alberta's highways. In conjunction with Transport Canada, the Division also administers highway mode requirements for such shipments being transported into, through, and out of the province under the federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act.

From the inception of the program, the Dangerous Goods Control Division has encouraged industry to voluntarily comply with the legislation which came into effect in Alberta on February 1, 1986. During the early stages of program implementation, detected non-compliance was usually handled by educating violators about their responsibilities under the law. Prosecution has now been phased into program delivery as a more dramatic means of gaining the attention of persistent violators.

When violations are detected, warning notices may be issued. These notices formally notify the violator that a specific offence has been committed. Notices also serve to help keep track of repeat offenders. Follow-up investigations are conducted by the Division with employers, shippers or other jurisdictions. During 1989/90, a total of 781 warning notices were issued to various shippers and carriers throughout Alberta.

In order to promote compliance, prosecution was used extensively during fiscal 1989/90, the final phase of the planned evolution of program delivery. Alberta courts handed down substantial fines for 160 charges which were laid under the provincial Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Act and the federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act.

The Dangerous Goods Control Division operates four branches, as follows:

The Facilities Inspection Branch is responsible for inspections of those facilities at which dangerous goods are offered for transport, incident investigations, and other follow-up investigations throughout the province.

The On-Highway Inspection Branch facilitates the carrier inspection process.

The Coordination and Information Centre provides general technical support to the program, assists industry in achieving compliance with the legislation, assists enforcement personnel in the interpretation of the more complex aspects of the legislation, and provides technical expertise on regulated products to emergency response personnel. The CIC plays a wide role in overall agency operations, and provides a provincial government emergency reporting centre for all emergencies. Extensive EDP systems support to the agency is also provided by the staff in the Centre.

The Regulatory Standards and Approvals Branch is responsible for the issuance of permits under the Regulations, the

processing of municipal dangerous goods route by-laws for Ministerial approval, and the coordination of the regulatory amendment process with respect to both the federal and provincial legislation.

Legislation

The Alberta legislation is fully consistent and compatible with federal legislation that regulates similar activities with respect to air, rail and marine modes of transport as well as extra-provincial movement by highway.

The Dangerous Goods Control Division works very closely with Transport Canada as well as other provincial and territorial jurisdictions in an effort to ensure national uniformity in relation to all laws covering the movement of dangerous goods.

The legislation defines a "dangerous good" as being any product, substance or organism specified in the Regulations or included by its nature in any of the classes prescribed. The 3,476 regulated products, substances and organisms fall into one or more of the following nine internationally recognized classes of dangerous goods:

Class 1 - explosives;
Class 2 - gases: compressed, deeply refrigerated, liquefied or dissolved under pressure;
Class 3 - flammable and combustible liquids;
Class 4 - flammable solids, substances liable to spontaneous combustion, and substances that on contact with water emit flammable gases;
Class 5 - oxidizing substances and organic peroxides;
Class 6 - poisonous and infectious substances;
Class 7 - radioactive materials;
Class 8 - corrosives;
Class 9 - miscellaneous products, substances or organisms considered dangerous to life, health, property or the environment when handled, offered for transport or transported.

The legislation prescribes the manner in which dangerous goods are classified and requires that vehicles transporting quantities sufficient to constitute a reasonably significant hazard be identified through a safety marking system which immediately indicates the nature of those hazards to emergency response personnel.

Additional requirements cover explanatory documentation which must accompany the shipment; markings and specifications for packaging and other containers; reporting procedures in the event of an accidental spill, emission or discharge; safety procedures which must be followed; special training which must be undertaken by shippers and carriers as well as a variety of other requirements designed to enhance public safety during the entire transportation process.

In February 1990, the Court of Queen's Bench ruled that the manner in which the province adopted Part IX of the federal regulations, dealing with reporting of spills and training of personnel, did not apply to the handling, offering for transport, or transport of dangerous goods.

This ruling has been appealed by the Department of the Attorney General. The

appeal is still in progress. To ensure that these important requirements remain in effect in the province, an amendment to the provincial regulations was enacted, clearly including the training and reporting requirements.

Facilities Inspection Branch

Shipper inspections and enforcement are carried out by seven full-time Dangerous Goods Inspectors who are located in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary and Lethbridge. There are two Inspectors in both our Edmonton and Calgary District Offices.

A Facility Inspector's primary function is to inspect shippers' facilities so as to ensure compliance with the legislation. Inspectors also conduct follow-up investigations whenever an on-highway offence is identified, if that offence indicates that a shipper may also be in violation.

During 1989/90, the Facilities Inspection Branch conducted 1,880 site visitations of shippers' facilities at various locations throughout Alberta. This figure reflects the fact that the Facility Inspectors significantly increased the time spent attending court throughout the province. In addition, they conducted 108 follow-up investigations on suspected shipper offences identified by the On-Highway Inspectors as well as those identified by jurisdictions outside Alberta. Seventy-four charges against shippers were dealt with in the courts during the fiscal year. The resulting fines averaged $295.50 per charge.

Whenever possible, Facilities Inspectors attend the scenes of accidents in which dangerous goods are involved in a spill, emission or discharge during the course of handling, offering for transport or transportation. An Inspector's foremost function in such cases is to provide technical assistance to the local emergency response personnel who are directly responsible for mitigating the incident.

The Inspector's secondary focus is to determine if there is any indication of non-compliance with the legislation and to identify factors which might lead to a reduction in the likelihood of recurrence. This activity has continued to provide valuable information related to the prevention of such accidents. For example, as a result of the Division's investigation into the Highway 831 spill near Lamont, the Province issued a stop order prohibiting the use of a particular manufacturer's container from dangerous goods service.

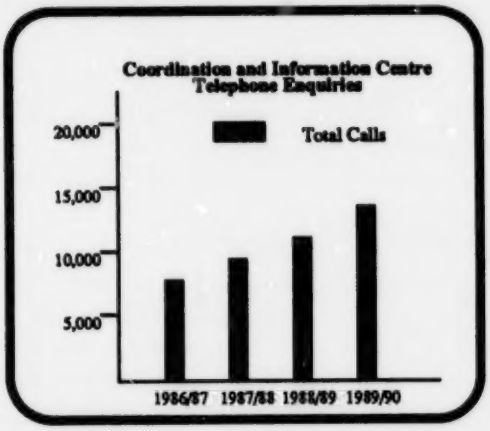
On-Highway Inspection Branch

On-highway inspections and enforcement functions are performed by personnel from existing enforcement agencies as an extension of their regular duties. Members of these enforcement agencies are given comprehensive training designed and/or delivered by APSS personnel, and are then formally designated as Dangerous Goods Inspectors under the provincial Act prior to actually performing such duties.

As of March 31, 1990, there were 807 On-Highway Inspectors across Alberta, responsible for correcting problems which may arise during the actual transportation phase of operations, and for identifying shippers who are not complying with legislation.

This information enables Facilities Inspectors to focus on those shippers who are known to experience problems. Eighty-

six charges laid against carriers resulted in fines averaging $518.22.

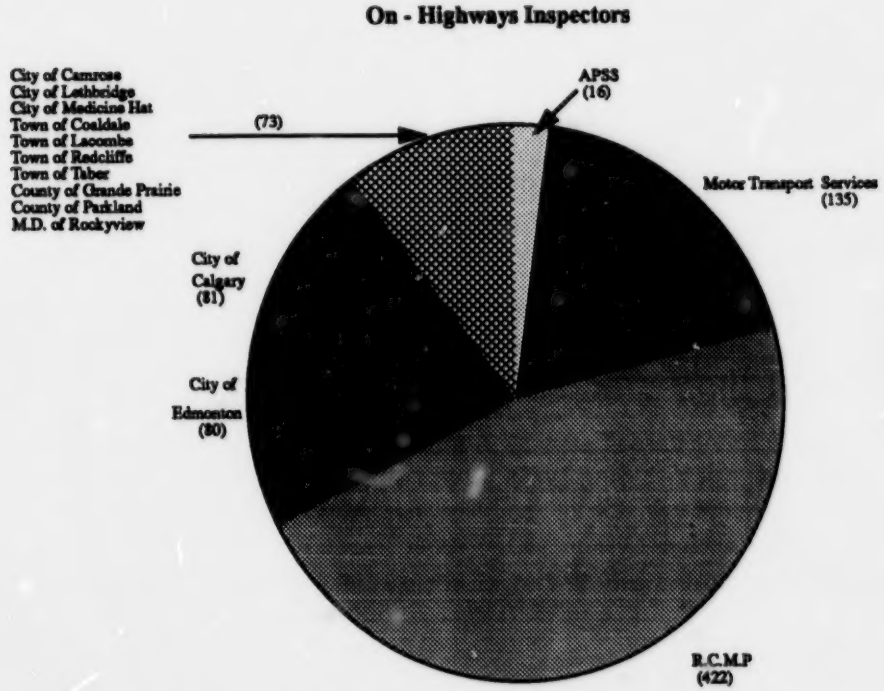


Coordination and Information Centre

Encouraging industry to voluntarily comply with the legislation continues to be a major component of program delivery throughout the Dangerous Goods Control Division. The Coordination and Information Centre (CIC) is industry's most readily available resource to determine the requirements of the law as it applies to a particular company's operations. The CIC is staffed by fully trained technical personnel supported by extensive data resources.

The CIC maintains a 24 hour toll-free telephone service to handle enquiries from both shippers and carriers about the shipping and transportation of dangerous goods by the air, rail, marine and highway modes. Enquiries relate to local, national and international shipments and frequently involve intermodal consignments. During fiscal 1989/90, the CIC responded to 13,155 such enquiries. These included 883 calls as part of a service started in 1987/88 to respond to questions about Alberta's hazardous waste management system.

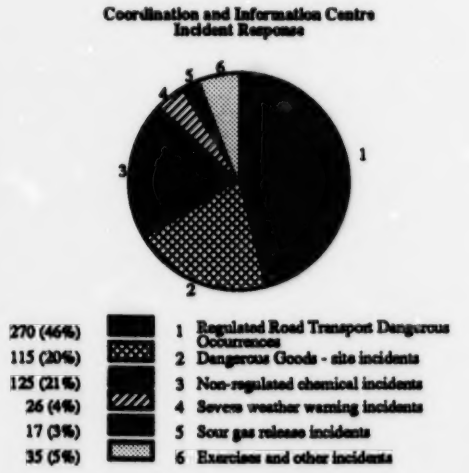
In addition to fielding questions about dangerous goods, the CIC receives reports on dangerous occurrences, such as accidental spills, emissions or discharges of dangerous



goods for which reporting is required under the Regulations. In 1989/90, 270 dangerous goods incidents involving the highway mode were reported to the CIC. This compares with 184 such reports during 1988/89, reflecting a change to the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Regulations in August, 1989, regulating the transportation of diesel fuel and molten sulphur.

In its capacity as the province's Emergency Duty Centre, a function of the Disaster Services Division of APSS, the CIC responded to 46 Disaster Services incidents and exercises during the fiscal year.

The CIC continued to prepare, update and distribute interpretive bulletins for both industry and enforcement agencies. CIC personnel participated in many seminars and conferences designed to increase industry's awareness and understanding of the legislation.



CIC staff kept up their strong commitment to many computer related projects during 1989/90. These included a major revision of the Dangerous Goods Information System and the Emergency Response Information Coordination system, as well as a joint project with the Alberta Research Council and Emergency Preparedness Canada to evaluate the use of expert systems in emergency response management.

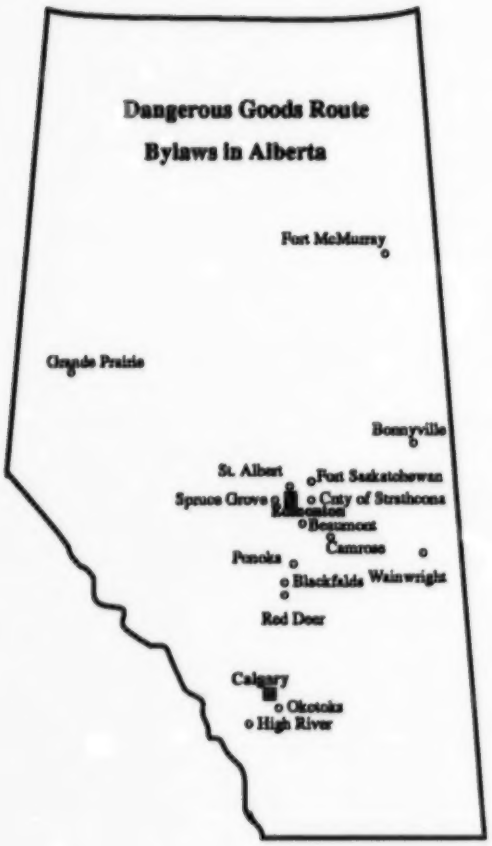
Regulatory Standards and Approvals Branch

This Branch develops standards for possible inclusion in the federal legislation and consequential adoption under the provincial Regulations. The Branch serves as a sounding board for industry, government and the general public with respect to specific requirements for compliance with the applicable legislation as well as a conduit for regulatory amendment proposals.

The Branch coordinates the provision of legal services, including those provided by the provincial Attorney General's Department and the federal Department of Justice in matters related to administration and enforcement of the legislation.

In addition, the Branch administers the issue of provincial permits under the legislation. Permits can be issued in circumstances under which it is extremely difficult or impossible to fully comply with the letter of the law for a variety of reasons or where it can be shown that an equivalent level of safety can be achieved by some method not recognized in the Regulations.

Permit applications are reviewed in consultation with all affected parties including the federal and other provincial governments in an effort to ensure national uniformity. The prime consideration in assessing any permit application continues to be that industry is not unduly affected by the requirements of the legislation, provided always that public safety is not compromised



by any relaxation of those requirements. During 1989/90, 391 permits were issued.

Five municipal by-laws were processed by the Branch for Ministerial approval during the fiscal year. Municipalities are authorized under the Act to pass by-laws in relation to Dangerous Goods Routes within their communities, but such by-laws are subject to the approval of the Minister. This procedure ensures that one municipality does not simply transfer its problems to a neighbouring community, and that the continuity of the provincial transportation system is not unnecessarily altered. The process also provides a mechanism to achieve a degree of uniformity with respect to dangerous goods routing by-laws throughout the province.

The Branch helped municipalities to analyze the appropriateness of imposing such restrictions within their respective communities, and to draft proposed by-laws in accordance with nationally adopted criteria. By-laws for the Cities of Camrose and Grande Prairie, and the Towns of Blackfalds, Okotoks, and Wainwright received Ministerial approval during 1989/90. Sixteen Alberta municipalities now have dangerous goods routing by-laws in force. Fourteen other municipalities received Branch assistance during the various drafting stages of their respective by-laws.

Coordination and Information Centre Statistics

Month	Enquiries	Dangerous Goods Incidents	Disaster Services Incidents
April/89	1,407	19	1
May/89	1,423	22	4
June/89	1,459	23	6
July/89	1,215	17	10
August/89	1,259	22	6
September/89	932	24	1
October/89	1,103	20	4
November/89	903	21	4
December/89	634	23	1
January/90	985	32	4
February/90	823	28	4
March/90	1,012	23	1
Totals 89/90	13,155	274	46

PROGRAM SUPPORT DIVISIONS

Administration Division

The Administration Division provides support in the design, development and implementation of a records management program, the acquisition and maintenance of office accommodation, equipment and communications. In addition to overseeing library operations, the Division handles purchasing for the department; the provision of office supplies, mail and messenger services; and development of the Department Policy and Procedures Manual.

Personnel Division

The Personnel Division manages payroll administration, recruitment and selection, classification of positions, as well as employee and labour relations.

The Division helps Agency staff members obtain appropriate staff training and development so that they are better qualified to meet Branch and Agency goals. During the reporting period, 67 staff members attended 31 courses sponsored by the Personnel Administration Office and Public Works, Supply and Services. One person attended courses through the Faculty of Extension at the University of Alberta and 26 staff members participated in seminars and conferences. An in-house First Aid Workshop was attended by eight employees.

Six people were recruited for permanent positions. One staffer was hired under the Quebec/Alberta Exchange Program, eight others under the Summer Temporary Employment Program, and four under the Priority Employment Program.

A significant amount of classification activity took place during the year. A total of 40 positions were either considered for classification action or updated. New Administrative Support Classes were introduced this year, replacing the Clerk Typist, Clerk, and Word Processing Operator classifications. All affected positions at Alberta Public Safety Services were reviewed and classified according to the specifications.

The Public Safety Services Officer series was reviewed by a committee consisting of five Agency line managers who supervise positions in the class, two representatives from the Classification Branch of the Personnel Administration Office, the Agency's Director of Personnel and the Personnel Administrator. New class specifications were prepared which identify the six principal streams in the class. The new specifications have been submitted to the Personnel Administration Office for approval and a review of the compensation for each level in the series.

A new Occupational Health and Safety Committee was elected in April. An occupational health and safety mandate was developed for the Agency and related news was regularly reported in the Agency's internal newsletter. One member of the Committee joined the Alberta Occupational Health Society.

The Committee developed a questionnaire about smoking which was issued to all staff, and the results were used to develop a new smoking policy. An awareness campaign was undertaken on office ergonomics and information packages were issued to all staff.

Eight staff members successfully completed a Basic First Aid course.

Inspections were done in eight buildings, including six administrative offices and two warehouses.

A satisfaction survey was conducted this year. All permanent, temporary and wage employees were asked to respond. The results of the survey indicated that 87% of our employees are very satisfied with working at Alberta Public Safety Services.

Communications Group

The Communications Group consists of a Director of Communications, an Assistant, a Graphic Artist and a Duplicator Specialist. During the year it was decided to close the duplicating shop and re-assign the Duplicator to other duties at head office.

The Group is responsible for establishing and maintaining good relations with the media, and for responding to the many calls from the media and public regarding the activities of the Agency. These become particularly numerous whenever there is any incident that affects the operations of the Agency.

The Group is also responsible for promoting the activities of the Agency and helping the public and industry to prepare for potential man-made or natural disasters.

The Emergency Public Information Officer course was developed and delivered for the first time. This course is designed for the municipal employee designated to work with the media in an emergency situation, and has gained wide acceptance. It runs three times a year at the Training School, concurrently with the Emergency Site Management course. Similar but shortened courses were also run for staff of the Public Affairs Bureau, and have been presented at conferences and community colleges.

The Agency took part in 12 exhibitions pertaining to Disaster Services and the Transportation of Dangerous Goods. These exhibitions are seen by specialized interest groups with whom the Agency works on a regular basis.

The Agency's corporate image was redefined and gradually all our publications will be designed to conform with the new image. The design is modern, colourful and reflects the forward looking aspects of the Agency.

Our revised quarterly publication, *Insight*, reached an ever increasing public in Alberta and North America. Special requests for the magazine were received from Europe and the Far East.

Library

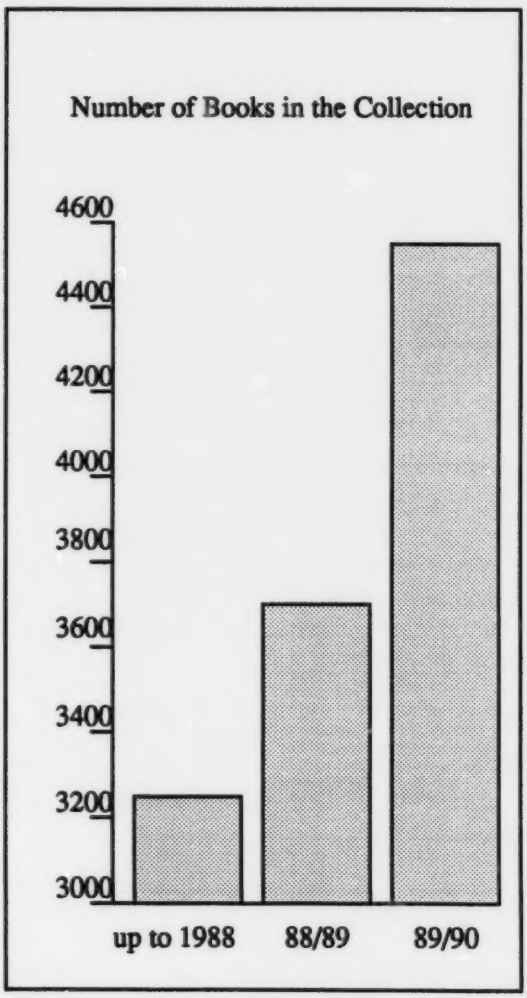
The Alberta Public Safety Services Library hired a full-time Librarian and began offering reference services and inter-library loans on a regular basis. Now individuals from government, the public, industry and post-secondary institutions have access to Agency resources on emergency preparedness and response to man-made or natural disasters.

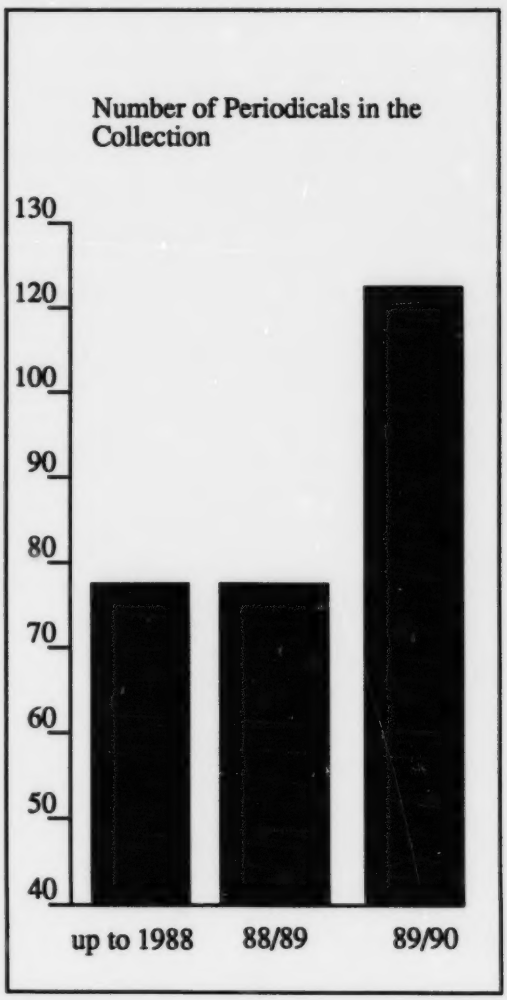
Throughout the year, numerous projects were initiated to streamline and improve the library collection and services. These included developing the library's resources and improving technical procedures so as to increase the speed at which information resources can be made available. Library staff have begun a major assessment in order to determine the strengths and weaknesses of

the library's collection, which included 4500 books and 122 serial titles at the end of the 89/90 reporting period.

Due to numerous requests for service from outside the department, the librarian took steps to formalize and thereby simplify borrowing procedures. An application was made to the National Library of Canada to recognize our library as a lending library. This application was accepted late in 1989/90.

Information about our services is now readily available to the public through other libraries across the country and the world. The promotion of the library as a unique resource has resulted in many requests for service from other provinces and other countries. Due to the number of these requests and the time required to fulfill them, the library has instituted service fees. This was done in order to recover the cost of service to non-Alberta residents.





APPENDIX 1

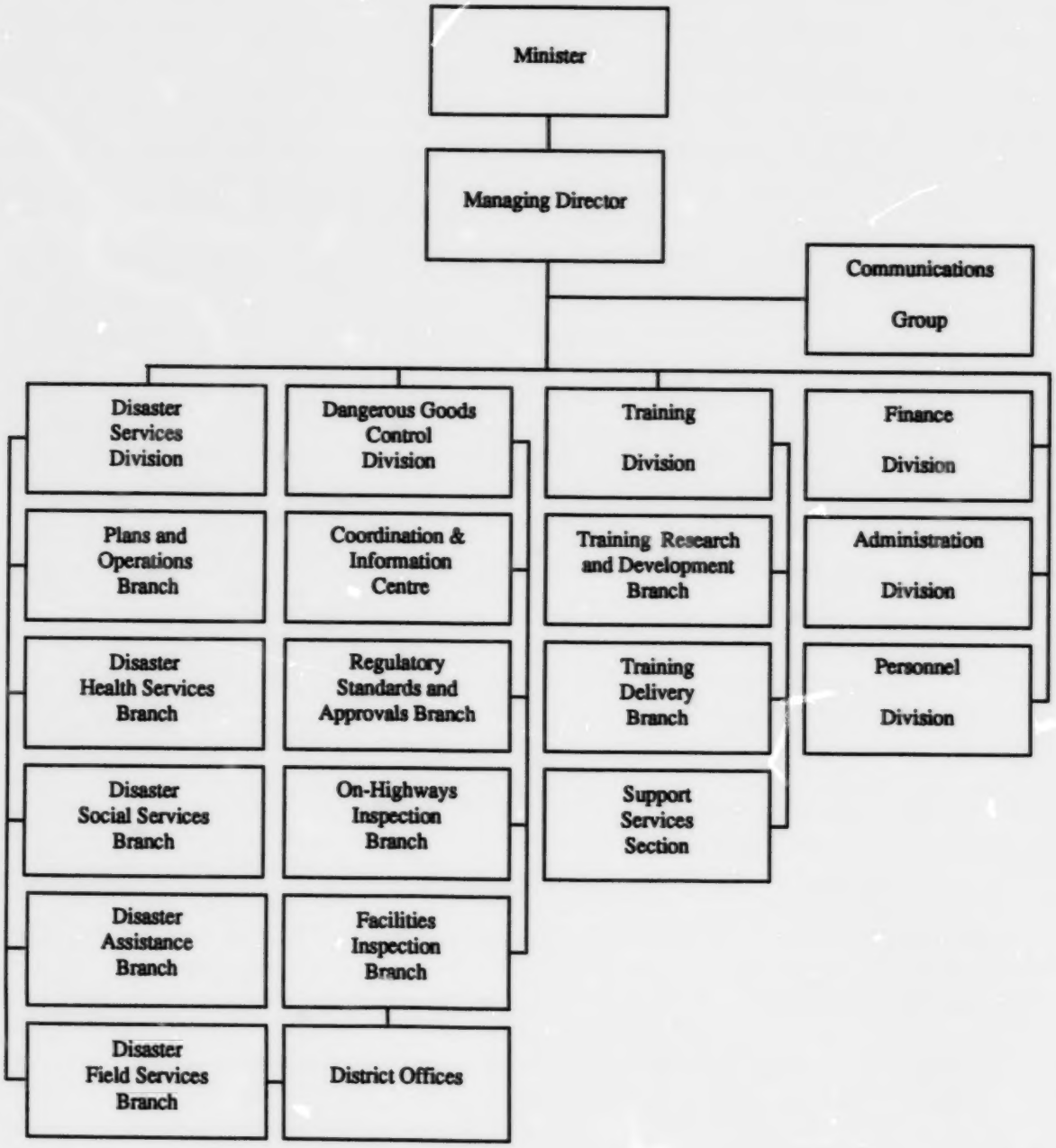
Program Expenditures

	Provincial Expenditures 1988/89	Federal Contributions To Provincial Expenditures 1988/89	Provincial Expenditures 1989/90	Federal Contributions To Provincial Expenditures 1989/90
Program Cost (excluding Disaster Assistance)	$ 4,353,655	$ 438,651	$5,123,368	$ 342,404 *
Disaster Assistance Program	$ 22,323,580		$ 18,483,934	
Related Alberta Government Services Expenditures	$ 34,451	$ 7,500	$ 94,714	$ 7,500
Total	$ 26,711,686	$ 446,151	$ 23,702,016	$ 349,904

* Cost-sharing arrangements with the Government of Canada under the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program.

APPENDIX 2

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW



APPENDIX 3

LEGISLATION:

Alberta Public Safety Services is responsible for the administration of the following acts and regulations:

The Public Safety Services Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 1985

- Alberta Regulation 307/77 Emergency Services Regulation, with amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 347/77
- Alberta Regulation 112/76 Emergency Planning Regulation, with amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 71/81
- Alberta Regulation 321/85, the Disaster Assistance Regulation
- Alberta Regulation 380/85 Emergency Government Areas Regulation,with amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 439/86

The Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Act 1982

- Alberta Regulation 37/86, Administration Regulation
- Alberta Regulation 383/85 with amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 69/90, Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Regulation

APPENDIX 4

EMERGENCY RESPONSE REPORT SUMMARY

1. Pesticide Dump Site Fire - Spirit River - 03 May 1989
   A fire at a pesticide dump caused two homes to be evacuated as a precautionary measure.

2. Flooding - Indian Reserve 209 (High Level) - 05 May 1989
   Families on standby for evacuation. No evacuation necessary.

3. Severe Storm Warnings - Central and Southern Alberta - 19 June 1989
   Advised by Atmospheric Environment Services. Possibility of heavy rain, damaging winds, intense lightning, hail. Municipalities advised.

4. Severe Weather Warnings - Central Alberta - June 27, 1989
   Cold funnel clouds seen in N.E. Edmonton. Severe thunderstorm warning to Ft. Saskatchewan, Gibbons and Redwater, could produce tornados. Tornado touchdown south of Fort Saskatchewan, minimum damage.

5. Severe Thunderstorm Warning - Slave Lake - June 30, 1989
   Wind caused damage to Forestry Workers property.

6. Flooding - Seba Beach - July 8, 1989
   Road to village washed out, utility lines exposed due to erosion. Disaster crew and heavy equipment sent in but evacuation not necessary.

7. High Winds - Radway - July 22, 1989
   High winds, hail. Trees, crops and property damaged.

8. Toxic Spill - Girouxville - July 23, 1989
   Anhydrous ammonia spill caused by a leaking nurse tank. Several homes were evacuated.

9. Tornado - Edmonton - July 28, 1989
   Tornado touched down in West Edmonton. Extensive damage to Pardee Equipment.

10. Tornado - County of Westlock - August 3, 1989
    Tornado touched down south of Westlock and caused damage to one farm.

11. Flooding - Beaver Creek - August 2, 1989
    State of Local Emergency declared in Whitecourt. Trailer Park badly flooded and

residents evacuated. Several homes flooded along Creek and water into areas around local pulp and lumber mill.

12. Flooding - Paddle River - August 11, 1989
Farmland along the Paddle River flooded. No farmsteads or residences reported flooding.

13. Storm Warnings - County of Smoky Lake - August 17, 1989
Funnel clouds spotted. Two large petroleum tanks were hit by lightning and were set on fire.

14. Sour Gas Release - Eaglesham - August, 11, 1989
Category II sour gas incident declared. MCHQ set up. Well capped August 25, 1989 - no evacuation necessary.

15. Electrical Fire - Calgary - September 27, 1989
Electrical fire causing noxious fumes in downtown Calgary. Two buildings evacuated, no report of injury.

16. Natural Gas Leak - Calgary - October 12, 1989
High pressure natural gas leak. One block evacuated.

17. Petroleum Tank Spill - Rainbow Lake - October 17, 1989
Tanker truck overturned, 25-30 people were evacuated. No injuries reported.

18. Sour Gas Release - Windfall - October 18, 1989
Small release in the Windfall area. No residents in the area. Well capped October 20, 1989.

19. Propane Leak - Red Deer - November 21, 1989
Major propane leak at shopping centre. Centre and several blocks in the vicinity evacuated by public transit.

20. Fire - Caroline - January 9, 1990
Tank located near gas well on fire, no danger to public. Two rig workers injured, fire extinguished.

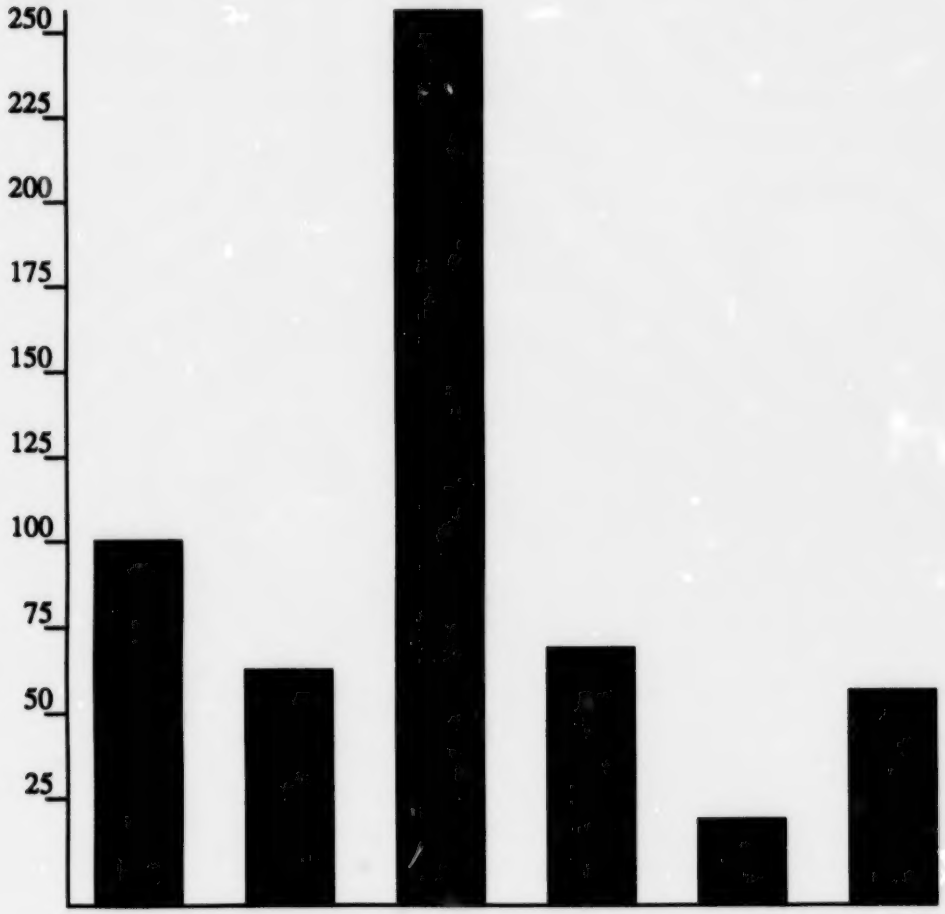
21. Snow Storm - Olds - January 28, 1990
Severe snow storm stranded 65 travellers in Olds. Travellers were provided with food and shelter on January 28 and 29, 1990.

22. Explosion - Blackfalds - March 2, 1990
Natural gas explosion at Blackfalds Post Office, 25-50 people held at evacuation centre. Schools and businesses were closed.

23. Natural Gas Leak - Castor - March 26, 1990
Large gas leak, explosive mixture measured at the scene, 30 homes evacuated. Gas lines shut off and line repaired.

APPENDIX 5

EMERGENCY PLANS HELD AT APSS



A: Oil and Gas Plans
B: Active Sour Gas Plans
C: Municipal Peacetime Operations Plans
D: Rural Peacetime Operations Plans
E: Airport Emergency Plans
F: Other Plans, Including: Joint Federal-Provincial, Dam Breaches, Forest Fires, Nuclear Emergencies, Disease Management, Maps and Atlases, Industrial Emergencies

APPENDIX 6
HEALTH SERVICE TRAINING COURSES

Course	Number of Courses	Number of Candidates
Mass Casualty Preparedness Workshop	15	872
Disaster Health Planning Seminars	2	53
Basic Casualty Simulation Courses	2	20
Lectures	17	677
Total	**36**	**1,622**

APPENDIX 7
HOSPITAL EXERCISES

Date	City/Town
04 April 1989	Vulcan - Extendicare Nursing Home
19 April 1989	Medicine Hat & District Hospital
26 April 1989	Hanna Health Care Centre
27 April 1989	Castor - Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital
02 May 1989	Leduc - Extendicare Nursing Home
10 May 1989	McLennan - Sacred Heart Health Centre
11 May 1989	High Prairie Regional Health Complex
16 May 1989	Innisfail Health Care Centre
18 May 1989	Wetaskiwin General Hospital
23 May 1989	Sherwood Park Nursing Home
25 May 1989	Drumheller Regional Health Complex
30 May 1989	Banff - Mineral Springs Hospital
06 June 1989	Stony Plain - Good Samaritan Care Centre
07 June 1989	Rimbey - General & Auxiliary Hospital
08 June 1989	Leduc - Salem Manor Nursing Home
20 September 1989	Westlock - Immaculata Hospital
21 September 1989	Bashaw General Hospital
27 September 1989	Valleyview Health Centre
03 October 1989	Fort McMurray Regional Hospital
05 October 1989	Vegreville - St. Joseph's Hospital
23 October 1989	Edmonton - Charles Camsell Hospital
24 October 1989	St. Paul - St. Therese Hospital
25 October 1989	Vermilion Health Care Complex
31 October 1989	Fox Creek Hospital
01 November 1989	Lamont Auxiliary Hospital & Nursing Home
07 November 1989	Smoky Lake - George McDougall Memorial Hospital

TRAINING SCHOOL TABLES

APPENDIX 8
CENTRAL COURSES

Course Name	Number of Courses	Number of Candidates
Rescue Leaders Course	4	86
Public Warning System Workshop	1	42
Program Management Course	3	71
TDG Carriers & Shippers Course	3	65
Emergency Site Management Course	3	95
Emergency Public Information Officers Course	3	42
NAIT Paramedic Rescue Course (Special)	1	18
Disaster Social Services Course	3	86
TDG On-Highway Inspectors Course	2	29
Dangerous Goods Response Seminar (formerly Dangerous Goods Orientation)	2	29
EPC Plans & Operations (Peace) (Special)	1	28
Casualty Simulation Course	2	20
Disaster Health Planning Seminar	2	53
Disaster Social Services Seminar (Special for City of Edmonton)	1	26
Environmental Health Inspectors Disaster Response Seminar	1	24
Basic Rescue Course (Special for Dog Handlers)	1	8
Rescue Course (Special for Community Police Radio Network Personnel)	1	19
Advanced Training in Critical Incident Stress	1	289
Total	**35**	**1030**

APPENDIX 9
EXTENSION COURSES

Course	Number of Courses	Number of Candidates
Dangerous Goods Awareness (DGA)	30	611
Basic Rescue Course	32	471
TDG Dangerous Goods Control Awareness	4	160
TDG On-Highways Inspectors	1	14
TDG Carriers & Shippers	1	8
TDG Emergency Response Course (U of A)	1	32
Dangerous Goods Awareness (Special)	1	24
Emergency Site Management Orientation (Special)	2	34
Mass Casualty Preparedness Workshop	15	872
Community Health Disaster Planning Lecture	17	677
Disaster Social Services Seminar	5	177
Critical Incident Stress Awareness	48	2474
Total	**157**	**5554**

APPENDIX 10
COURSES OUTSIDE OF ALBERTA

Course	Number of Courses	Number of Candidates
EPC - Methods of Adult Training Techniques (MEATT)	1	4
EP/HWC - Emergency Health Services Planning (Community)	6	21
EP/HWC - Emergency Social Services Planning (Community)	10	18
EPC - Mayors & Elected Officials	5	15
EPC - Plans and Operations Peace (POP)	16	31
EPC - Plans and Operations War (POW)	1	1
EPC - Radiological Defence Officers (RDO)	2	2
EPC - Programme Preparation Aux Sinestres Cours D'Operation D'Urgence (POP French)	1	1
EPC - Emergency Operations Course (EOC)	3	9
EP/HWC - Special Care Facilities Emergency Planning Course	2	2
EPC - Emergency Communications Course	3	6
EPC - Emergency Site Management (ESM)	4	13
EPC - Planning Workshop	1	1
National Emergency Arrangements for Public Information		
EPC - Exercise Design Course	5	10
EPC - Emergency Public Information Officers Course	2	3
EPC - Course Administration Seminar	1	2
EPC - Emergency Planning Workshop	1	1

APPENDIX 10
COURSES OUTSIDE OF ALBERTA (cont'd)

Course	Number of Courses	Number of Candidates
EP/HWC - Hospital Emergency Planning	1	2
EPC - Symposium 1989: The Social Cost of Disasters	1	1
EP/HWC Emergency Services Directors' Meeting	1	1
EP/HWC - Casualty Simulation Course	1	2
EP/AGR - Animal Health Management Workshop	1	2
EP/AGR - Emergency Management Workshop	1	2
EPC - School Board Emergency Preparedness Seminar	1	3
Total	**71**	**153**